MR. T. K. GOPALAN NAIR: When commandeering is done notices are issued that the boats are commandeered.

MR. K. T. MICHAEL: May I know whether this condition that the owners will be liable for the loss has been intimated to the owners?

MR. T. K. GOPALAN NAIR: Boat owners are aware of this fact when the boats are commandeered.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PLILAI: May I know how much money has been realised by Government by such unwarranted action?

PRESIDENT: It is firstly misleading and secondly it does not arise.

Detained vallams.

52 *MR. P. S. MOHAMED: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they know that the vallams seized and detained for shortage of goods have been deteriorating for want of proper care and use; and

(*b*) the number of vallams under such seizure and detention at present?

MR. T. K. GOPALAN NAIR: (*a*) No such instance has been brought to notice.

(*b*) Does not arise in view of the answer to (a).

Boats Commandeered.

53 *MR. P. S. MOHAMED: Will the Government be pleased to state the number of boats that were commandeered from the taluk of Shertalai?

MR. T. K. GOPALAN NAIR: It is not possible to give the information as the period for which it is required has not been specified in the question.

Release of boats from commandeering.

54. *MR. P. S. MOHAMED: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number of petitions sent from Shertalai taluk for the release of boats from commandeering; and

(*b*) the number of petitions for exemption of boats from commandeering (from Shertalai taluk)?

MR. T. K. GOPALAN NAIR: (*a*) and (*b*) It is not possible to furnish information since the period for which it is required is not specified in the question.

Cooly for loading and unloading foodgrains.

55. *MR. P. S. MOHAMED: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they give cooly contract for loading and unloading foodgrains by inviting tenders in open competition; and

(*b*) whether such competition will not ultimately affect the wages of coolies and consequently create confusion among the workers?

MR. T. K. GOPALAN NAIR: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No such instances have been reported.

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